

Lease Sale Protests in Greater Sage-Grouse Habitats Briefing Paper Template

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – ENERGY, MINERALS, AND REALTY MANAGEMENT

DATE: [Date memo submitted to AD300 and AD310]

FROM: Applicable State Director [Name, title, and applicable state]

SUBJECT: [Insert state] State Office [Insert scheduled date of sale] Oil and Gas Lease Sale
Statement of purpose: Inform AD300 and AD310 about the upcoming oil and gas lease sale in relation to protests that involve Greater Sage-Grouse and Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.

BACKGROUND

Summarize key information from the *Preliminary Lease Sale Summary*. For example:
On September 28, 2015, the XXX State Office posted the environmental assessment (EA) for the February 11, 2016 oil and gas lease sale for public review and comment. The EA analyzed the offering of up to 50 parcels totaling approximately 112,500 acres as part of the sale. Of this, 20 parcels totaling approximately 45,000 acres intersect Greater Sage-Grouse General Habitat Management Areas and 10 parcels totaling approximately 22,500 acres intersect Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Management Areas. Parcels that will be offered at the sale fall within the X, Y, and Z Plans planning areas for which applicable oil and gas lease stipulations from these Plans were attached to the appropriate parcels. The protest period for the lease sale ended on December 28, 2015.

DISCUSSION

In the briefing memo, please identify potential sage-grouse related impacts and controversies associated with the parcels listed in the Sale Notice. The discussion should address the following:

- a) Has the proposed sale generated any controversy with the State/Governor or the public?
- b) Provide a hyperlink to the BLM external website with the BLM's NEPA compliance documentation for the lease sale (EA or DNA).
- c) How many parcels (and acres) have been protested because of sage-grouse issues?
- d) Who filed these protests?
- e) What are the protester(s) main arguments related to sage-grouse issues?

NEXT STEPS

Describe how the State Office anticipates answering the protests.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A. However, please feel free to attach additional maps (other than what has already been provided through the *Preliminary Lease Sale Summary*).